

REMARKS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of January 29, 2004. The Applicant respectfully submits the amendments and arguments below.

The Applicant acknowledges that claims 1-2, 6-8, and 18-9 are allowed, and that claims 9-12, 15-17 and 22 may be given favorable consideration if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph.

The balance of this document will discuss the Applicant's response to the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action dated 1/29/04.

Specification Objections

The Examiner requires the status of the parent application to be updated on the first page of the specification. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended the first paragraph of the specification as set forth below (with markings showing changes made):

This is a divisional application of US Patent ~~Application~~ Number ~~09/047010~~ 6,336,382 with a filing date of March 24, 1998, entitled: Ratchet Wrench Head Member and System, which further claims the benefit of the priority date of provisional patent application serial number 60/044,075 filed on April 17, 1997.

Claims Objections

The Examiner has rejected claims 9-12, 15-17, and 20-22 under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. More specifically, it appears that claims 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 22 have been rejected for indefiniteness, while claims 10-12, and 15 have been rejected for being dependent on a rejected claim.

In response, the Applicant has amended claims 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 22 as forth below (with markings showing changes made):

9. (Currently amended, previously amended 5-19-03 previously new 7-17-2002) In combination:

a wrench head member configured to use a socket wrench extension as a handle, said wrench head member having a shaft section, a drive section extending from a said shaft section, a locking member extending from the drive section thereof and a release button that, when actuated, releases the locking member,

a socket wrench extension having an extension collar extending from a first end of said socket extension, said extension collar having a hollow portion that includes a drive hollow portion configured for accepting and engaging the drive section of the wrench head extension inserted therein and a shaft hollow section configured for accepting and engaging a portion of the shaft section of the wrench head inserted therein, said socket wrench extension having a first opening within a sidewall of said drive hollow portion and a second opening within a sidewall of said shaft hollow portion, said first opening being located to engage the locking member of the wrench head member and said second opening being located to provide access to the release button of the wrench head member,

whereby said wrench head member is operated using the socket wrench extension as a wrench handle by inserting the shaft section and a

drive section of the wrench head member into said hollow portion of said extension collar of said socket wrench extension such that the drive section of the wrench head member engages said drive hollow portion of said extension collar and said shaft section of the wrench head member engages said shaft hollow portion of said extension collar.

16. (previously amended 5-19-03, previously new 7-17-2002) The combination of claim 9 wherein said drive ~~member~~ section of said wrench head further comprises a ratchet drive mechanism.

17. (previously amended 5-19-03, previously new 7-17-2002) The combination of claim 9 wherein said drive ~~member~~ section of said wrench head comprises a socket drive for engaging a wrench socket.

20. (previously new) The handle of claim 19 wherein said handle is also configured to be used as an extension member for the wrench system.

21. (currently amended, previously new) The handle of claim 19 ~~used in combination with said~~ further comprising a plurality of mating pieces, said plurality of mating pieces including a wrench head member having a post with the locking member and the release button.

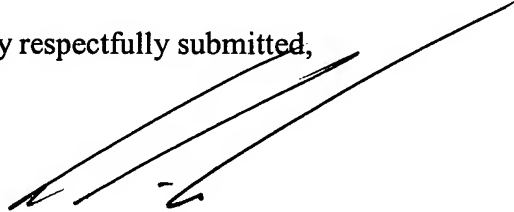
22. (currently amended, previously new) The combination of claim 1 wherein said release button is located on ~~said~~ a portion of said shaft of said wrench head.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claims 9-12, 15-17, and 20-22, as amended in some cases, comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all of the pending claims address novel and non-obvious subject matter. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance.

Very respectfully submitted,



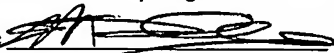
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as attached hereto, addressed to Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, will be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage at Newark on June 29, 2004.

Signature


Evanjohn M. Dasalla

Date: June 29, 2004